



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/article/valentine%E2%80%99s-day-reflecting-importance-chocolate-production>

On Valentine's Day, Reflecting on the Importance of Chocolate Production

They say the way to a person's heart is through their stomach. And whether you're enjoying the fruits (or beans!) of the world's cocoa harvest through your favorite candy bar during your afternoon snack, or receiving a heart-shaped box of cream-filled goodness for Valentine's Day today, it's worth considering how the delectable confection came to be in the first place—and how supporting the industry can lead to increased global food security.

You might think that's quite a jump. But cocoa in West Africa contributes considerably to farmer livelihoods and national economies. Collectively, this region's 2 million smallholder cocoa farmers produce approximately 70 percent of the world's supply. With a projected strong, long-term demand, cocoa has great potential to increase these farmers' incomes. To do so significantly requires improving productivity to make cocoa farming more economically attractive and environmentally sustainable.

The U.S. Government is supporting precisely these efforts with Feed the Future, President Obama's global hunger and food security initiative. Through a partnership between USAID, the [World Cocoa Foundation](#), and the [Sustainable Trade Initiative](#) (IDH), Feed the Future has embarked upon an alliance that will help alleviate poverty and increase farmer incomes in West Africa while strengthening government and regional institutions, advancing food security throughout the region.

[Read the full blog post on the USAID IMPACTblog](#)